

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawerence Lu on 5/14/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 lines 4-7 replace "establishing a label switch path (LSP) by the node in the multi-port VLAN, through a label distribution protocol (LDP) and obtaining information binding a forwarding equivalence class (FEC) and a label or information binding an ingress label and an egress label and an address of a LDP peer entity at the opposite end, which is a next hop address" with "establishing a label switch path (LSP), by the node in the multi-port VLAN, through a label distribution protocol (LDP), and obtaining an address of a LDP peer entity at an opposite end and information binding a forwarding equivalence class (FEC) and a label or obtaining the address of the LDP peer entity at the opposite end and information binding an ingress label and an egress label wherein the address of the LDP peer entity at the opposite end is a next hop address"

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2 & 5-9 are allowed. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-2 and 5-9 are considered allowable since no prior art reference alone or in combination with other prior art references disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims including:

"wherein obtaining a specific egress port corresponding to the forwarding-relation table item from the multiple ports of the VLAN based upon the next-hop IP address comprises:

the MPLS table item managing module searching an address resolution protocol (ARP) table based upon the next-hop IP address to judge whether there is a corresponding table item of ARP;

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if there is a corresponding table item of ARP, the MPLS table item managing module establish a correspondence relation of the forwarding-relation table item and a corresponding egress port and physical MAC address in the table item of ARP based upon information of the corresponding egress port and MAC address; and

if there is no corresponding table item of ARP, the MPLS table item managing module marks the forwarding-relation table item with an UNAVAILABLE sign, transmits an ARP broadcast request in the VLAN based upon the next-hop IP address and an egress interface VLAN, receives an ARP response message sent from the opposite end, relearns and obtains the egress port and MAC address corresponding to the next-hop IP address based upon the received ARP response message sent from the opposite end, and a maintaining and managing module of the VLAN notifies the MPLS table item managing module to update the information of the egress port corresponding to the forwarding-relation table item based upon the received ARP information" in combination with other claim limitations as specified in claim1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT W. WILSON whose telephone number is (571)272-3075. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dang Ton can be reached on 571/272-3171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Robert W Wilson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2475

RWW
7/16/10